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AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims on the application. All claims are set forth below with one of the following annotations.

- (Original): Claim filed with the application.
- (Currently amended): Claim being amended in the current amendment paper.
- (Canceled): Claim cancelled or deleted from the application. No claim text is shown.
- (Withdrawn): Claim still in the application, but in a non-elected status.
- (New): Claim being added in the current amendment paper.
- (Previously presented): Claim added or amended in an earlier amendment paper.
- (Not entered): Claim presented in a previous amendment, but not entered or whose entry status unknown. No claim text is shown.

1.-2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 1~~ In a multi viewer environment where multiple viewers simultaneously experience an audio-visual production with the visual production occurring on a display surface, a method of increasing the perceived reality of the audio stream of the production, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) locating a plurality of at least three speakers along a periphery of the viewing audience; and

(b) panning an audio stream between the series of speakers so as to provide for the sense of an audio sound moving in a front to rear or rear to front direction along the periphery of the viewing audience,

wherein step (b) further comprises the step of panning the same audio stream to a series set of at least three speakers along the periphery whilst simultaneously delaying the audio stream transmitted by to each speaker by an amount that varies along with the panning gain.

4.-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) In a multi viewer environment where multiple viewers simultaneously experience an audio-visual production with the visual production occurring on a display surface, a method of increasing the perceived reality of the audio stream of the production, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) panning an audio stream between at least ~~two~~ three speakers so as to provide for the sense of an audio sound moving in a front to rear or rear to front direction along the periphery of the viewing audience, and

(b) whilst panning the audio stream, delaying the output of one of the speakers relative to another speaker.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the relative delay between the outputs from at least two of the speakers varies along with the panning gain.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein said audio stream includes a channel containing spatial information, including one of panning gain and delay, for a component of said audio stream to be panned.

9.-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) ~~A system according to claim 9~~ A system for increasing the perceived reality of an audio stream in a multi viewer environment where multiple viewers simultaneously experience an audio-visual production, with the visual production occurring on a display surface, the system comprising:

a series of at least three speakers located along a periphery of the viewing audience;
and

panning means for panning a sound trajectory between the speakers so as to simulate the effect of a sound trajectory along the periphery of the audience,

wherein said panning means further comprises delay means for delaying the output of at least one speaker relative to another.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 11 wherein said delay means varies the delay of said speaker output by an amount that varies with the panning gain.

13.-16. (Cancelled).